

U.S. ACTORS RETURN TO SHOPMEN ANGRY—STRIKES NUMEROUS

GOMPERS HOME, WITHHOLDS O. K. TO PLUMB PLAN

Labor Federation Chief Swamped by Callers After Reaching Hotel.

WILL HELP THE ACTORS

Says Germans Are Still Obsessed by Idea of Dominating World.

Samuel Gompers arrived from Europe yesterday on the George Washington. An hour after he disembarked at the Hoboken pier he was in a state of siege in the Continental Hotel, and was almost overwhelmed by committees, sub-committees, delegations, petitions, plans and reporters.

He crammed more listening into the hours between his arrival and his going to bed than the average man does in a year. But he did it with little talking. He conferred with Glenn E. Plumb, or rather Plumb conferred with him. He received John Fitzpatrick, head of the Chicago Federation of Labor. W. Z. Foster of the national committee for organizing the iron and steel workers, and was informed that a delegation of actors was coming to ask him to give a thought to the Actors Equity Association and address them if he had time.

He viewed with consternation a mound of letters and telegrams, and, giving up hope of finding the necessary time to eat lunch, ordered a bottle of seventeen cent milk, which he drank between nods and monosyllables. He looked a bit tired, but declared he was quite fit. He'll need to be as physically staunch as Jack Dempsey to carry out the programme that has been mapped out for him.

About the railroad situation he had nothing to say. He was equally reticent concerning the steel workers. He declared that he'd help the striking actors if he could, but preferred to wait until he was asked to take a hand there. But there was something of a hitch between the beleaguered head of the American Federation of Labor and Mr. Plumb, for the latter told reporters that he had Mr. Gompers' assurance that Mr. Gompers was "absolutely" for the Plumb plan, while Mr. Gompers let it be known that such a statement by Mr. Plumb was not authorized.

Not Pleased with Plumb.

Furthermore, it became known that Mr. Plumb's statement was not only displeasing to Mr. Gompers but more or less lacking in suitable foundation. Finally he denounced the "near-Bolshevik" influence of the Socialist party as more dangerous than the doctrine of Lenin.

To reporters he declared that while he was not wholly satisfied with the way things went at the International Trades Union Congress in Amsterdam the sum total of that body's work was commendable, inasmuch as it has a "transforming" effect upon economic conditions in those places where something akin to destruction seemed but a step or so ahead. Bolshevism he declared was a "dead end" and that the whole of those parts where Bolshevism abides in tangible form, is on the wane. The Germans are utterly unrepentant, he said, and as arrogant and brutal as ever and still filled with the spirit of domination.

And despite the multitude of assurances from lesser leaders that Mr. Gompers' return to America was not speeded by the chaotic relations between employer and the employed Mr. Gompers declared that his return was hastened by telegrams received from Washington. He would not hint of the contents of the telegrams; neither would he say who sent them. He intends to leave for Washington either the next or the day after tomorrow. Meanwhile he will listen to the steel workers' committees and to the railroad men, digesting in all moments the several reasons of discouraging looking figures that will be before him. He is a statistician, the A. F. of L. statistician, bestowed upon him immediately after his arrival.

"We accomplished two things at Amsterdam that were gratifying," said Mr. Gompers. "We changed the headquarters of the Congress from Germany to Holland, and we changed the voting system to a more democratic basis whereby the representatives of the labor bodies of various countries would have a number of votes commensurate with the number of workers they represented. Therefore each delegation, irrespective of the number of men and women it represented, had just one vote. Thereby the small countries were placed on a par with the large ones. We had heard that small countries were being subsidized and combined by German capital and influence."

Bolshevism on Wane.

"Bolshevism, I learned, is on the wane. It has failed in its hopes and aims and the people who looked to it for political, economic and social salvation find that they have no peace, no land, no bread and no work. This will precipitate the downfall of Bolshevism."

Somewhat succeeded in turning the interview into home channels and asked Mr. Gompers to sum up his views of the unsettled conditions here.

"Some employers," said he, "have not yet learned that they are no longer masters of all that they survey. They are men who tell the workers the right to a voice in determining the conditions under which they shall work. It is my aim to help them all I can."

President Wilson's letter to the railroad shoguns was a matter to be discussed later, Mr. Gompers said.

"However," he added, "it is a subject that has both a time and a place theory."

"And it might be of interest to you to know that I now have evidence that the Germans are unrepentant. They still are powerful and are still dominating world affairs. Domination is the upmost in their minds. I had the pleasure of telling the German delegates that they did not yet know the meaning of the war; that their old motto, 'Deutschland über Alles,' did not get any more."

"Will I help the striking actors? Certainly, if I can be helpful to them I shall gladly. You say the managers have a plan of their own that they wish the striking actors to adopt. Maybe it is a plan something like the Rockefeller unions out in Colorado."

When the reporters insisted upon some

statement by Mr. Gompers upon the Plumb plan, the latter replied with considerable asperity:

"I reserve the right to refuse answers to that question."

Previous to this interview, Glenn Plumb told reporters that Mr. Gompers was with him.

"Gompers stands where he has always stood," declared Plumb. "He is the head of the movement to help the Plumb plan. Absolutely! My plan is certain of adoption, but I doubt whether this Congress will accept it. It takes Congress some time to catch up with the progress of the world. The people always move ahead before Congress acts. It will inevitably be a campaign issue in 1920. President Wilson has not indicated his attitude toward the plan. He has been too engrossed in the League of Nations fight to have a great deal of time for anything else."

Former Congressman Edward Keating of Colorado was with Mr. Plumb during the latter's conference with Mr. Gompers.

Gompers Issues Statement.

Supplementary to his personal talk with reporters, Mr. Gompers issued the following typewritten statement setting forth the reorganization of the International Trades Union Congress:

"This Amsterdam conference marks a new stage in the progress of labor. It is organized labor to be invigorated before the war was based upon unequal representation and controlled by the Germans. The new organization for the world is the International Trades Union Congress. The headquarters have been removed from Berlin to Amsterdam, a genuinely representative executive has been elected and a fairly good hope of voting has been laid down for later international congresses."

The new organization is already something more than a mere framework. It has already taken a firm and unmistakable attitude on what is perhaps the gravest problem of this critical hour: Is organized labor to be invigorated by the revolutionary movements that have been showing their heads in every country of Europe as a result of the war? I fear that the public reports of the Amsterdam conference, taken up with the spectacular duel on war responsibilities between the German delegates on the one hand and the American and Belgian delegates on the other, may have failed to note the remarkable stand taken on Bolshevism and near Bolshevism. The Bolshevist resolution was killed by the committee of which I was chairman. The Bolshevist or semi-Bolshevist being literally overwhelmed."

"In fact, no acknowledged Bolshevist was present for the reason that Bolshevism proper has made very little headway among European labor unions outside of Russia, Italy and a few minor countries."

"However, there is a far more dangerous near-Bolshevism induced by many of the Socialist parties. It was this near-Bolshevism that proposed an international and revolutionary general strike throughout Europe and America July 20 and 21, 1919."

"The Socialist induced the idea, but the labor unions in every country of Europe turned it down, with the limited exception of Italy. This proposed general strike was the last hope of the pro-Bolshevik or near-Bolshevist revolution in western Europe and proved a fizzle."

Bolshevists Defeated.

"At Amsterdam the near Bolshevist type of Socialists were represented by the so-called 'Free Trade Unions' of Germany, with 60,000 members, and the National Secretariat of Holland, with 45,000 members. The two organizations together represented 105,000 members. These figures accurately represent the relative force of labor unionism and Bolshevism in the European labor movement."

"I am glad to report that these Bolshevists brought their doctrine to a test before one of the committees of the convention. They called for an endorsement of the political, or revolutionary, strike in language just about as clear and precise as could be asked for, and it was voted down unanimously by all the delegates present. This situation at the conference except the minorities in Holland and Germany. This defeated resolution was as follows:

"The International Congress, responding to the appeal of the working classes of the Soviet countries to support their struggle by means of demonstrations and strikes with a view to the overthrow of the capitalist governments to raise their blockade and stop their military intervention, expresses its satisfaction over the joint efforts of the proletariat of the proletarian class of several countries on the 21st of July; and

"Resolves to promote and undertake a renewed joint international action for the purpose of:

"The defeat of this proposition means the definite and final repudiation by the organized labor of Europe and America not only of Bolshevism but of the whole effort to involve labor unions in international revolutionary movements of any kind. It is true that the majority of the delegates profess more or less Socialist doctrine, but they have finally and definitely repudiated the persistent and ceaseless efforts of the Socialist parties to utilize the unions for a revolutionary 'cataclysm.'

3D AVE. ROAD WINS INJUNCTION DELAY

Hearing Adjourned to Sept. 8 Over Union's Protest.

Justice Guy in the Supreme Court postponed yesterday until Monday, September 8, the hearing on the injunction and restraining order against Patrick J. Ryan, who had sought to prevent the interfering with the management and conduct of the Third Avenue Railway System. Justice Lydon granted the temporary injunction on August 23 and an adjournment was asked for when the matter came up yesterday. In addition to Shea, who is president of the Amalgamated Association of Street and Electric Railway Employees, Local 62, who is counsel for the association; William H. Collins, an association official, and the members individually are enjoined. The writ was obtained to head off a threatened strike of employees.

Attorney Fridger opposed the motion for the postponement of the argument and stated that an immediate hearing on the injunction was desired. A. T. Davidson, attorney for the company, explained to the court that he would be out of the city next week and that it would be impossible for him to be present at a hearing then. Although Fridger held out for an immediate hearing Justice Guy granted Davidson's plea.

SHOE WORKERS GET INCREASE.

12,000 in Lynn to Receive 15 Per Cent. Boost in Wages.

LYNN, MASS., Aug. 26.—The Lynn Shoe Manufacturers Association and the United Shoe Workers of America completed an agreement to-day whereby more than 12,000 workers will receive a 15 per cent increase in wages, with a forty-four hour week of five working days. The contract expires September 1, 1920.

Fourteen of the sixteen firms which are members of the association had signed the agreement previously.

GOMPERS PLEDGES SUPPORT TO ACTORS

2,500 Players Cheer Head of A. F. of L., Who Makes Promise at Mass Meeting.

STAND FIRM, HE ADVISES

Strike Fund Increased \$7,000 by Movie Folk—More Benefits Arranged.

Samuel Gompers, president of the American Federation of Labor, a short time after he landed on American soil yesterday from the George Washington, went to a mass meeting of the Actors Equity Association at the Lexington Theatre and amid rousing cheers from 2,500 players pledged the support of his huge labor organization to the striking actors.

Mr. Gompers made as dramatic an entrance upon the scene as though he was an actor himself. He had been expected to address the gathering, but along about 5 o'clock hope of his appearing practically had been abandoned. In fact Francis Wilson, president of the Equity, was keeping the other speakers going on the chance that Mr. Gompers might eventually appear, when Albert Barrett, an actor who was standing near the doors, suddenly yelled: "Here he is!"

Immediately a cheer went up as though the patriarchal labor chieftain was the Moses coming to lead them out of the wilderness, while players swarmed to the stage. Mr. Gompers, who had been waiting in the wings, came forward and walked down the aisle to the stage. There he sat down while hurrahs for three minutes ripped through the house. Mr. Wilson, when he came to the stage, explained that Mr. Gompers was tired and was forced to rest, but Mr. Gompers came to the footlights and corrected this by saying:

"Your chairman has said I am fatigued, but the truth is I am hungry. You know I'm not an army man, and coming home on a journey that lasted nine days I lived on army chow, which is not gratifying or satisfying to a civilian. I haven't had a chance even to go to an actor's boarding house to get a meal."

Right to Sit in Council.

"I know something of the lot of the actor and of the theatrical profession," he went on, "and I must make this declaration, no matter what interpretation any one may put on it, that all men who live in the theatrical profession have the right to sit in the council of the industry. If they are not to sit in the council, which determine their pay and the conditions under which they work."

"In Amsterdam not long ago I had to say to the representatives of German labor because of their arrogant and overbearing manner that they had not learned the meaning of the word 'council' and that the time of 'Deutschland über Alles' had passed out for all time."

"The time has come when Kaiserism and autocracy, commercial or industrial, must make himself heard, and I declare which you stand to-day is similar in character to that of the Germans. I hold that the company of men which has not learned the meaning of the word 'council' is a thing of the past and has gone by the board and has not learned the real lesson of the war."

"I heard from your president, Mr. Wilson, that a controversy was likely to arise. Every well informed American knows that the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State in the United States guarantee the right to be heard in court by counsel. In other words, the Constitution recognizes the principle that the weak man, the poor man, the woman, the negro, the foreigner, the immigrant, the alien, the child, the old man, the sick man, the disabled man, the man who is unable to defend himself when opposed by a foe. No one will dispute how important is this guaranteed right. I quote it as applicable to this situation."

"I am a lawyer, and I know the law, and though you speak your lines well when it comes to pleading your case with these who have control of your lives and destiny, your head is bowed, your voice is weak, your courage is faint with weakness and your courage is unable to give utterance to the thought in your mind. Therefore you came to me, and I asked you to let me represent you. I asked you to let me present your case. You have the right to be heard by counsel of your own choice."

Calls It a Jag of Joy.

"From the few and fragmentary pieces of news conveyed to me I understand you are having a glorious time. Mr. Wilson suggests that really you are having a jag of joy. No matter how much you loved your profession, in all your lives you have never had such a sense of freedom and liberty as you are experiencing to-day."

"The future depends not upon the managers but upon you. Many a good cause has gone glimmering because of the failure of the men and women to maintain the spirit of the cause. If whatever length of time it may last, you make up your mind to stick, nothing in this world can prevent your success. If you have not made up your mind to do that it would be better if you had not begun at all."

"You have aroused the managers to an understanding of your power. They are alert, and they have not only their brains but they can buy brains by the pound. As sure as life and death if you weaken the treatment you received in the past will be as nothing compared to that which you will receive in the future."

"I don't know if it is possible for me to do anything. If I had the power I would do something. But whatever power and influence there is in the American Federation of Labor, whatever there may be generating in its thought of right and justice, I want you to bear in mind that it is up to you to see that it is not a mere empty and honorable and justifiable end every service that can be rendered will be heartily and loyally accorded."

"The Producing Managers Association refused to make any comment on Mr. Gompers' promise of aid, holding that he had not been here long enough to become conversant thoroughly with the situation."

Although Mr. Gompers kept to generalities and did not mention the decision of Justice Peter A. Hendrick in the Supreme Court on Monday, to uphold the injunction restraining the actors from interfering with productions. It was pointed out by leaders of the Equity that the support of the A. F. of L. and the sympathy of the walkout of the stage hands and musicians, unrestrained by any court order, would be maintained and would in itself prevent managers from putting on productions."

THE MANAGER'S PLEDGE.

This injunction, to be embodied in a formal order to-day by Justice Hendrick at 2 P. M., was referred to by Mr. Wilson when he made his address. In the course of his speech he also mentioned the Actors Fidelity League, whose meetings are being presided over by Louis Mann, the vice-president, and asked the crowd what was meant by its initials, A. F. L. "All for Louis!" shouted some one in the audience.

"Let me tell you a strange thing," continued Mr. Wilson. "The majority of

the managers are with you. If they could express their will they would speak out for you. One of the managers said to Mrs. Arnold, when discussing the strike, 'I admire your principle.' Frank Gilmore, executive secretary of the Equity, after reading a cablegram of encouragement from Justin Huntly McCarthy, chairman of the dramatic committee of the Authors Society of Great Britain, and a telegram from Julia Dean saying she was not a member of the board of directors of the Fidelity, read a letter from California saying that movie actors had contributed \$7,000 to the strike fund. Speaking of the sympathetic walkout of stage hands and musicians, Mr. Gilmore said:

"They have no complaint. It was the most altruistic and unselfish action I have ever known. In a meeting they cheered five minutes for you." Thereupon the Equity throng, to prove the feeling was mutual, cheered the same length of time for the stage hands and musicians.

Hazard Short, reporting for Earl Booth, chairman of the entertainment committee, said \$15,000 was raised by the benefit at the Lexington Theatre last week, with all expenses deducted. Telegrams have come from Geraldine Farrar, H. B. Warner and William Farnum, he said, saying they would attend the Equity ball at the Hotel Astor to-morrow night.

He announced an ambitious benefit program, with a performance of last week's Lexington ball at Saratoga to-night, Labor Day performance in the Auditorium Theatre in Chicago and the Academy of Music in Brooklyn, and a revival of the Broadway musical comedy, 'The Sign of the Cross,' at the Theatre on the East Side. It also was planned to present an "all star" cast on Broadway soon, and a musical comedy at the Lexington Theatre. John Emerson, speaking along similar lines, said:

"If this strike isn't settled in a month a cooperative plan will be the outcome. The whole theatrical situation of the country will be revolutionized and the actors will be associated with the theatres. The only non-essential element in the strike is the theatre. The theatres are fine men, but they can't speak for themselves."

Harry C. Browne, chairman of the finance committee, told the meeting it was possible to raise a fund of \$100,000. He said that Frank Gilmore, the only Equity executive who is receiving a salary, is turning over 50 per cent of his salary to the strike fund. John Cope, Louis Fridger, attorney for the Brooklyn car strikers; Martin W. Littleton, chief counsel for the defendant actors in the injunction case; and John C. Turner, associate counsel, who gave reassurances concerning the court decision, were other speakers.

Mr. Turner during the day issued a statement in which he made this explanation about the injunction: "They operate solely to maintain the situation in statu quo until a trial is held upon the merits of the case. All fact will be examined into and the merits of our defenses considered. These defenses could not be adequately presented at this time."

Adelaide Wilson, daughter of Francis Wilson, explained that she enrolled with the Fidelity body because, though she had heard strike talk in her family for many years, she did not approve of it on the part of actors, feeling that a contract is not a scrap of paper and should be respected.

STATE LABOR BODY WILL AID ACTORS

Pledges Support and Cheers Attacks on Managers.

STRAUSE, Aug. 26.—The State Federation of Labor at the opening session of its fifty-sixth annual convention here, adopted a resolution with cheers which extended sympathy and support to the striking actors and declared the Actors Equity Association to be the only legitimate organization affected with the American Federation of Labor. These resolutions followed speeches in which Ed Wynn, Marie Dressler and De Witt Jennings, who were present, expressed their sympathy for the actors.

The convention also appointed a special committee to take into consideration all matters pertaining to the strike and other interests involved and to make a report with recommendations to the main body. The speeches by the players were warmly applauded by Gov. Smith and the audience. Frederick P. Holland of the federation and Mayor Stone of Syracuse on the speakers' platform.

Mr. Wynn, who mentioned Arthur

Hammerstein and J. J. Shubert, theatrical producers, in his speech, told how he had given up vacations to work on play manuscripts for them, converting failures into successes. He declared that he and his father-in-law, Frank Keenan, knew enough about producers to put almost every one of them in jail. Miss Dressler in her address said:

"I have seen managers in their greed rush a theatre for a production so as to have the seats for the audience ready for an advertised date, and yet when the show opened it was not a single dressing room for the actors."

Gov. Smith urged that organized labor stand by the Government in these critical times, when an effort is being made to stop profiteering. Holland, speaking informally to newspapermen before the session, advocated a six hour day for workers as the only means of solving the unemployment problem. The committee appointed to examine into the actors' strike includes the following: State Industrial Commissioner James M. Lynch, Syracuse; Charles C. Shay, New York, president of the International Alliance of Stage Employees; James Lemke, New York, a general organizer of the same association; Ernest Bohm, secretary of the New York City Board of Federation of Labor; Edward Canovan, New York, musician; Union; Robert Brudell, Dock Builders Union of New York; and Dewitt C. Jennings of the Actors Equity Association.

EQUITY ASSOCIATION AFTER SPECULATORS

Herbert Phillips Fined \$25 on Scalping Charge.

Richard Gordon, an actor, who said he had been instructed by the Actors Equity Association to get evidence against ticket speculators, appeared against Herbert Phillips, a ticket seller of 320 West Forty-ninth street, in the State court yesterday. In Phillips had sold a \$2 ticket to the Equity actors' show at the Lexington Avenue Theatre for \$45. Magistrate Sweetser fined Phillips \$25.

"Practically every class of railroad employees have now submitted requests for very substantial increases over existing rates of pay. It is well that our members give very serious consideration to this fact. If there is to be any additional general increase in the wages of railroad employees the Federated Shop Trades will receive the same consideration. Don't fail to give this statement careful thought, and don't forget that if the Federated Shop Trades become involved in a strike now you are striking alone to force an increase for the 2,000,000 railroad employees."

B. R. T. HEADS MEET MEN.

Listen to Grievances From Their Strike Committee.

Officials of the B. R. T. met a committee representing the employees in a rooming house at 100 West Forty-ninth street, at 10 o'clock yesterday afternoon, when the grievances of the men regarding wages and working conditions were discussed. The strike committee was made up of nine men, headed by Edwin Smith, chairman. Frederick P. Royce and George D. Voemans represented the company. Another conference is to be held at 10 o'clock to-morrow morning. Several more meetings are expected to be necessary before complete agreements are reached. At the close of yesterday's conference Chairman Smith said:

"Everything looks bright, but the men must be patient and all our grievances will be corrected in the near future."

400 STRIKERS GO TO WORK.

HAMMOND, IND., Walkout Said to Be Broken.

HAMMOND, IND., Aug. 26.—Four hundred of the 2,000 striking employees of the Standard Steel Car Company have returned to work and officials of the plant expressed the view that the backbone of the strike is broken. The Hammond police to-day began arresting persons charged with complicity in the riots of August 14. Warrants for fifty men were issued. The ten companies of State troops are still guarding the plant.

Anti-Strike Vote in Berlin.

BERLIN, Aug. 26.—The radical labor element in Greater Berlin has adopted an anti-strike resolution. The "Eber-Noske-Schliche government" is also condemned in another resolution and is warned that its challenge will be accepted when the time is ripe and "the revolutionary forces throughout Germany have been coordinated."

SHOPMEN VOTING IN RAILROAD STRIKE

Continued from First Page.

Helpers, International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders and Helpers, Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Alliance, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Brotherhood Railway Carmen of America, under control of the Railroad Administration and the Canadian War Board.

QUESTIONS.—The attached letter of the President of the United States, accompanied by the proposition of the Director-General, was delivered to your executive officers and national committees in conference at the White House at 3 P. M., August 25, and are submitted to the membership at the urgent request of President Wilson, and it is requested that the contents of these documents be given your most careful consideration at a summoned or called meeting of each craft.

Shortly after the conclusion of the conference with the President and the Director-General another conference was held with the Director-General. In answer to a direct question, the Director-General stated that the proposed proposition was final and that there would be no wage increases granted to any other class of railroad employees, as a class, but in the event of unjust inequalities, as between individuals, adjustments involving increases to equalize rates of pay would be made where justified, except under the conditions that are clearly stated in the fourth paragraph of the President's letter herewith attached.

"Knowing the sentiment of the membership, your committee, after duly considering the proposition, advised the Director-General that they could not accept it as a basis of settlement of the rates established in his proposition, as submitted by the President."

"Practically every class of railroad employees have now submitted requests for very substantial increases over existing rates of pay. It is well that our members give very serious consideration to this fact. If there is to be any additional general increase in the wages of railroad employees the Federated Shop Trades will receive the same consideration. Don't fail to give this statement careful thought, and don't forget that if the Federated Shop Trades become involved in a strike now you are striking alone to force an increase for the 2,000,000 railroad employees."

"In view of the foregoing facts, the statements contained in the President's letter and the responsibility that must be assumed by the employees in the place, your executive council has decided that it would fall in its duty were it to authorize a strike until the membership has had an opportunity to decide their course of action on this proposition. It is not our intention to shrink any of our responsibilities as executive officers and the wishes of a constitutional majority of the membership expressed by their votes as hereinafter directed will be carried out."

"Until the wage questions have been disposed of there will be no action taken in connection with reaching a conclusion on the national agreement."

"Immediately upon receipt of this letter each craft will hold a summoned or called meeting, appoint a committee of tellers, who will prepare and distribute blank pieces of paper upon which each member shall sign his name and number of lodge in which he holds membership. If the member votes 'yes' it will indicate acceptance of the President's proposition; if the member votes 'no' it will indicate the rejection of the President's proposition and that he desires to strike to secure the wage rates requested."

"Efforts should be made to secure the vote of members located at outside points. Only members employed by railroads are entitled to vote."

"This vote shall be taken as a secret ballot. The tellers, together with secretary, will tabulate the vote and wire the result by stating the number of members voting 'yes' and the number voting 'no.' This vote will be confirmed by letter under seal of lodge."

"Pending the issuance of the official

strike order (provided the members vote to strike) it is earnestly requested that every member shall remain at work. "Owing to the large number of members involved it must be understood and agreed that the respective international organizations will not be obligated to pay regular strike benefits beyond the limits of the funds available for that purpose."

"Wire vote and send letter of confirmation to John Scott, room 37, A. F. of L. Building, Washington, D. C., at once."

"J. F. ANDERSON, International Association of Machinists."

"P. C. BOLAM, International Brotherhood of Blacksmiths and Helpers."

"WILLIAM ATKINSON, International Brotherhood of B. I. S. B. and H. A."

"J. M. BURNS, Amalgamated Sheet Metal Workers International Association."

JAMES P. NOONAN, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers.

"MARTIN F. RYAN, Brotherhood Railway Car Men of America."

"The acting president Railway Employees Department, A. F. of L."

New instructions given to the Board on Wages and Working Conditions in view of the Director-General to-day were as follows:

"It is desirable, respecting the claims now pending or to be filed before your board, to define the functions which it is appropriate for your board to perform in view of the decision announced by the President yesterday with reference to the policy which the Government must pursue in regard to railroad wages as a part of the general campaign which the Government is waging to reduce the high cost of living in the interest of all wage earners as well as other Americans."

"The position of the Government is that, in view of its campaign to reduce the cost of living and of the strong prospects that substantial relief will be achieved, it is not proper now to make general increases in wages on the assumption that the present cost of living will be permanent, and that pending the efforts of the Government to bring down the cost of living the higher costs of living ought not to be accepted as a permanent basis of wage adjustment, although it is recognized that if the efforts of the Government to bring down the cost of living should fail, railroad wages should be readjusted in the light of a permanent higher living costs which would thereby have to be recognized."

"The President has also made it clear, however, that the Railroad Administration is not precluded from giving prompt and careful consideration to any claims that may be made by the various classes of employees for readjustments believed to be proper to secure impartial treatment for all railroad employees."

"I therefore request that you take up promptly the claims which have already been presented and those which are to be presented by any classes of railroad employees to the effect that either for their classes as a whole or for any subdivisions to those classes, readjustments ought to be made in order to make sure that equal treatment is done on the basis of the general principles of wage adjustment which the Railroad Administration has already established."

Situation is Called Complex.

"It has been our constant endeavor since the first wage adjustments were made by the Railroad Administration to deal fairly and impartially with all classes of railroad employees. The situation is so complex that absolute perfection in this regard is impossible. Nevertheless, our experience up to the present time may in all probability develop that certain relative injustices may have been unintentionally done, and it should be our purpose promptly to correct these injustices."

"The Railroad Administration has been firmly committed to the policy since last September that it cannot make adjustments retroactive back of a date approximating the date upon which your board makes its report because otherwise there would be unending confusion and it would be impossible to get a date upon which the railroad men would be able to conduct their business as usual."

"I therefore hope that your board will be able to report promptly upon any inequalities which may be found to exist, to the end that any correction which the Director-General may find appropriate can be made effective at the earliest justifiable date, in accordance with the policy of the Railroad Administration."

"In all such matters the board will

be expected to report not only a statement of facts, and its conclusions upon the facts, but also its recommendations."

THOM FIGHTS FIXED PER CENT.

Opposes Some Road Return Plans Before House Committee.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 26.—Railroad readjustment plans proposing a fixed percentage of return for the stockholders were opposed before the House Interstate Commerce Committee to-day by A. F. of L. Executive, who said the authority existed in the Government to take from a carrier any part of its earnings derived from lawful rates.

"The legislative branch of this Government has nothing to do with fixing earnings," said Mr. Thom. "The Government's entire power as to earnings is to prevent, through its judicial department, the fixing by the Legislature of rates which will produce less than reasonable return from the property."

Mr. Thom urged that the standard be paid by the Government for one year after return of the roads to private operation or until the Interstate Commerce Commission restores the proper relation between earnings and expenses.

RAIL STRIKE TO CONTINUE.

Los Angeles Men Ignore Order to Return.

LOS ANGELES, CAL., Aug. 26.—All striking railroad men here will ignore instructions of their national chiefs but they return to work and will continue their strike, according to a dispatch reached early to-day after an all night meeting.

The men based their action on a phrase of the orders to return to work which said they need not submit themselves to discharge of military duty. They said to return at present would be dangerous in that respect.

CAR MEN REJECT AWARD.

Eastern Massachusetts Employees Vote for Conditional